Mankhurd-Belapur Rail Project

*314. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made with regard to the Mankhurd-Belapur rail project; and

(b) by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Earthwork and construction of bridges and other structures are in progress.

(b) The Project is likely to be completed in the latter part of 1990-91.

Losses incurred by the Hotels/Motels

*315. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hotel Corporation of India has incurred an enormous loss during the financial year 1986-87;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and whether the loss during 1986-87 is more than that suffered in 1985-86;

(c) what are the names of Hotels/Motels under H.C.I. which have been incurring losses during the last two years;

(d) what are the main factors for such losses and what steps are being contemplated to make good the losses; and

(e) whether Government propose to privatise the various projects under the Hotel Corporation of India (HCI) and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) During the year 1986-87, the Hotel Corporation of India has incurred a net loss of Rs 632.67 lakhs compared to the net loss of Rs. 406 lakhs during 1985-86.

(c) During the last two years, Centaur Hotel, Delhi Airport, Centaur Lake View Hotel, Srinagar, Centaur Hotel, Juhu Beach, Bombay, Centaur Hokke Hotel, Rajgir and Mayur Restaurants in London and Sydney have incurred net losses.

(d) The important reasons for the losses are high depreciation and interest burden on the newly constructed hotels at Delhi and Bombay, inadequate response of the Buddhist Pilgrim Traffic to visit Rajgir and low occupancy combined with disturbed conditions in Northern-India in the cases of Centaur Lake View Hotel Srinagar.

Steps taken to improve the financial performance of the hotels of HCI are:—

(i) intensified sales efforts,

(ii) training programmes to improve quality of service,

(iii) strict control on expenditure, and

(iv) improvement of services like Banquet and Conference facilities.

(e) At present, there is no proposal for privatisation of the various hotels of Hotel Corporation of India. Efforts are being made to make all the units financially viable and in the case of those units, which have not been financially viable for a long time, an attempt is being made to withdraw the participation of the Hotel Corporation of India from such ventures.

Introduction of Consumer Education course on school curriculum

*316. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce consumer education course for Secondary